

Message Text

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FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT DATED
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SUBJECT: SECRETARY VANCES MEETING WITH IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER
O'KENNEDY, JANUARY 7, 1978

1. THE SECRETARY, ACCOMPANIED BY CONGRESSMAN LEE HAMILTON,
CHARGE RENDALL AND COUNSELOR NIMETZ, MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
O'KENNEDY AND AIDE AT SHANNON AIRPORT DURING ONE-HOUR
REFUELING STOP. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRY FROM FONMIN, THE SECRETARY
REVIEWED THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, EMPHASIZING
THE IMPORTANCE OF SADAT'S TRIP, THE MOMENTUM GENERATED
THEREBY AND THE NEED TO FOCUS ON AGREED PRINCIPLES AT THE
JERUSALEM MEETING NEXT WEEK. O'KENNEDY INDICATED THAT THE
EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MIGHT ISSUE A STATEMENT ON THE
MIDDLE EAST, AND THE SECRETARY INFORMALLY ENCOURAGED SUCH
A MOVE.

2. THE SECRETARY ALSO REVIEWED THE SITUATION IN NAMIBIA

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AND THE HORN OF AFRICA. WITH RESPECT TO THE LATTER HE
EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR A CEASE-FIRE AND MEDIATION,
PERHAPS SPEARHEADED BY AFRICAN AND NON-ALIGNED NATIONS
(NIGERIA, INDIA AND YUGOSLAVIA WERE MENTIONED) AND
SUPPORTED BY THE EC, US AND OTHERS.

3. O'KENNEDY SUMMARIZED HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THE NORTHERN
IRELAND SITUATION. THE GOI HAD BEEN "AGREEBLY

SURPRISED" BY THE EXTENT OF BRITISH COOPERATION ON ECONOMIC ISSUES. IN THIS AREA PROGRESS WAS REAL. ALSO IN THE SECURITY AREA, THERE HAD BEEN A REAL IMPROVEMENT DURING THE PAST MONTHS. GOI AND BRITISH COOPERATION WAS VERY GOOD, AND THE INFLUX OF WEAPONS HAD BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED. US SUPPORT IN DISCOURAGING TERRORISM WAS MUCH APPRECIATED, AND THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT WAS A "POWERFUL" LONG-TERM INCENTIVE FOR A SOLUTION. THE EC HAD INDICATED THAT IT COULD ALSO BE HELPFUL ECONOMICALLY IN THE EVENT OF A SOLUTION. THE AREA IN WHICH THERE HAD BEEN NO PROGRESS WAS THE POLITICAL FIELD. ROY MASON'S ATTEMPT TO BRING THE GROUPS TOGETHER IN REGIONAL COUNCILS DEALING WITH FUNCTIONAL ISSUES HAS NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL. O'KENNEDY SAW NO CHANCE FOR SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL MOVEMENT FOR AT LEAST 12-18 MONTHS.

4. IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S QUESTION, O'KENNEDY DISCUSSED THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY AND IN IRELAND. HE SAID THE GROWTH RATE IN THE EC WOULD BE 3 PERCENT THIS YEAR, LOWER THAN EXPECTED. IRELAND WOULD DO BETTER -- ABOUT 5 PERCENT. IRELAND'S GREATEST ECONOMIC PROBLEM WAS YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT, AND THIS WOULD PERSIST SINCE IRELAND HAD THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION UNDER 25 WITHIN THE EC. FOR THE LONG-TERM, O'KENNEDY NOTED THE GROWING ECONOMIC GAP, BETWEEN THE SECRET

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CENTER OF THE EC AND THE PERIPHERY, WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED IF THE EC WAS TO BE A TRUE COMMUNITY. 5. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION, THE SECRETARY AND FONMIN HELD BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE. VANCE UNQUOTE VANCE

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